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Viewing cable 05BOGOTA5616, ELN'S HEROES OF ANORI BLOC DEMOBILIZES

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05BOGOTA5616**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05BOGOTA5616	2005-06-13 15:12	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://wikileaks.jornada.com.mx/notas/mexico-fallido-facilitador>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

34552,6/13/2005 15:12,05BOGOTA5616,"Embassy Bogota",CONFIDENTIAL,05BOGOTA3726,"This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full

","C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 005616

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/31/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MX](#) [CO](#) [ELN](#)

SUBJECT: ELN'S HEROES OF ANORI BLOC DEMOBILIZES

REF: BOGOTA 3726

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Milton K. Drucker, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (U) Summary: Twenty-nine members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) in Antioquia surrendered to the Colombian Army's Fourth Brigade on June 1 and agreed to demobilize. The "Heroes and Martyrs of Anori" became the first ELN members to demobilize in a mass ceremony. Although the desertions will not have a significant effect on overall ELN numbers, President Uribe made it a point to laud the move and encourage other ELN leaders to restart the peace process. The ELN's Central Command (COSE) will probably not agree since GOC cease-fire terms remain the same. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) On June 8, President Uribe praised the demobilization of 29 members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) bloc known as the "Heroes and Martyrs of Anori." The men surrendered in a surprise move and became the first bloc of the ELN to participate in a mass demobilization a month and a half after the ELN ended its stalled peace process facilitation with Mexico (reftel). The bloc took its name from two pivotal events in ELN history. Colombian military mission "Operation Anori" of 1973 inflicted significant damage on the ELN and killed or exiled several guerrilla leaders. The operation created a schism between the ELN's political revolutionary theorists and the armed revolutionaries. Ten years later, the Heroes and Martyrs of Anori conference became the first national ELN meeting and reorganized the disparate guerrilla groups into national war fronts.

¶3. (U) According to Medellin's daily El Colombiano, Commander Ramiro Alberto Ruiz (a.k.a. Eduard), justified his surrender by asserting, "In reality, armed struggle in Colombia makes no sense; here there is no chance of carrying out a revolution." President Alvaro Uribe applauded the decision and suggested that it serve as an example or incentive for ELN leaders to consider restarting a peace process and signing a cease-fire. Army Commander General Reinaldo Castellanos noted that Ruiz was one of the most wanted men in Antioquia when he surrendered -- a guerrilla combatant with 20 years experience.

¶4. (C) While the demobilization eliminates the ELN "Heroes" bloc, it will not affect ELN totals significantly since the guerrillas have been averaging 20 desertions per month nationally, roughly equal to the percentages leaving the FARC and AUC. Antioquia Department, home to the ELN, FARC, and AUC, had the highest numbers of individual desertions in 2003 and 2004.

¶5. (C) Comment: The ELN's Central Command (COSE) will probably not restart the peace process since the GOC's pre-requisite of a cease-fire and a suspension on ELN kidnapping, which proved unacceptable in April, remains the same. However, the monthly attrition, especially of veteran members like Eduardo, could push the group eventually either to accept total FARC control or acquiesce to GOC terms. This is a further blow to the credibility of the ELN as an independent fighting force. We attribute the ELN demobilization to a combination of tough government action, division and in-fighting within the ELN over the recent breakdown of facilitation of peace talks, and uncertainty within the organization about its own direction and future, especially a closer alliance with the FARC and entry into narcotics trafficking. End Comment.

DRUCKER